

PICKED UP ON THE SPORTING FIELD

Gibson, Veteran Catcher, Plans to Quit



Photo by American Press Association.

GEORGE GIBSON, the veteran catcher, who was sold by Pittsburgh to New York recently, says he will quit baseball after this season.

Ad Gains a "Rep" For Foul Boxing

HAS Ad Wogast a mania for fouling his opponents? It looks that way, or Adolph is getting careless in his desire to inflict punishment on his adversaries. Wogast has won most of his great battles, the ones over a distance, because the body punishment he administered wore the other fellow out. However, up to the time they gave Willie Ritchie the decision and the lightweight championship in the sixteenth round Ad had not been disqualified for hitting low. Since that time Ad has lost a number of battles through fouls and perhaps holds a record in that line. Wogast never got over the fact that they gave the championship to Ritchie on a foul. He has maintained that the

blow was as fair as any ever delivered. In a number of battles Ad has hit low. At Milwaukee against White and Ritchie he did the same thing. He repeated the trick against Hammer, but on all occasions he got away by apologizing to his opponents. Recently he lost to Frankie Russell at St. Louis on a foul. He was counted against at Shreveport last winter when they handed Bobby Vaughn the verdict of a low blow, and his latest foul lost him a verdict over Champion Welsh at Denver. Still Wogast is going along well. The battles he has won have shown he has regained his old time form, but wherever he appears the referee is on the alert for fouls and watches his style of punching more than that of any other boxer in the ring.

ATHLETES HAVE MANY QUEER SUPERSTITIONS

ATHLETIC leaders are very superstitious. There is not one today who does not have some little superstition or other in which he takes great stock. Back in the old days Alvin Kraenzlein perhaps was one of the most superstitious athletes ever known to the game. Kraenzlein never would go into an athletic meet wearing a clean suit. It was his custom to wear the same "knicker" that he wore ever since he started competition. Although they were frayed at the bottom and almost ready to fall off him, the big Dutchman would stick to his old suit, just the same. He always contended that if he washed them or donned a new suit he would wash away his luck. The fixed buries over in England always worried him.

Sometimes Lost Nerve. In spite of the fact that he was the greatest hurdler that the world ever produced, still just as soon as any one told him that the race would be run over fixed sticks he would lose his nerve completely and rarely would win. John Flanagan, the former champion all around weight thrower, was another one of the superstitious athletes. Although Big John was a wonder in the weights and easily had the number of all other competitors, he always had an inkling that some one was going to beat him. No matter how many records he would put up, he always felt that his day was coming, and he hated the thought of being beaten. John was one of the few champs, too, who managed to retire from the game without a real defeat.

Shrubb, a Worrier. At Shrubb, the dapper little British long distance champion of a few years ago, was another athlete of the Flanagan type. Shrubb was nothing but a bundle of nerves. He was a great worrier, and his athletic career was hardly a source of much pleasure to him. Like Flanagan, he could not take a beating. While the little Englishman was winning no one could get near him. When he lost he was a different individual.

PITTSBURGH'S TWO STAR-YOUNGSTERS.

PITTSBURGH has picked up a mighty capable performer in Farmer, who at times is played in the outfield and then again in the inner works. Wherever placed Farmer has delivered the goods in carload lots, and he bids fair to make a name for himself. Dan Costello is another colt in the Calhoun stable who is showing marked ability. His fielding has been of a sensational nature since he got into the game, and he has been hitting the ball right on the nose.

BUILDING MANY YACHTS. A TOTAL of 183 yachts were launched since Jan. 1, 1915, or are now under construction in this country.

WASHINGTON HAS NEVER WON A PENNANT

IF Clark Griffith and his Senators should cop the bunting this year—which is admittedly a large "if"—Washington fans would have their first opportunity to feast their eyes on a major league gonfalon. The republic's capital city has been among those present in all the big leagues organized, but never yet has a championship flag flown from its ramparts. In the early days of baseball Washington had one of the crack amateur clubs of the country in the Nationals, a team composed largely of government clerks. It was this organization which made the first extensive tour in baseball history. It was forty-nine years ago, July 11, 1867, that the Nationals set out on the trip which covered 3,000 miles and cost about \$6,000. Their first game was at Columbus, where the Nationals won 90 to 10. They then visited Cincinnati, defeating the Cincinnati 53 to 10 and the Buckeyes 88 to 13. Louisville was next trimmed to the tune of 82 to 21, and at Indianapolis the Nationals rolled up a score of 106 to 21. The St. Louis Union was smothered 113 to 26. At Rockford the trippers struck a snag and were defeated 23 to 23. The Chicago Excelsiors were beaten 49 to 4.

The tour of the Nationals started something in Cincinnati. The fans of that city were out for revenge, and the famous Red Stockings were organized and in 1869 and the following season made a tour which extended as far west as San Francisco and south to New Orleans, winning fifty-six games before meeting defeat. On this trip the Reds defeated the Nationals, 24 to 8.

THORPE IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION BY HIS BASE STEALING. JIM THORPE has passed from the Giants, and it is not likely that John J. McGraw will recall him at the end of the season. That need not imply that the career of the mighty Sam and Fox is at an end as a big leaguer. The Cincinnati Reds are looking with favor upon his deeds in the American association. He is hitting around the .250 mark with the Milwaukee team, but is leading the league in stolen bases. When with the Giants he was held in the grip of the club red tape and went down only when ordered. With Milwaukee he is allowed to use his own judgment and is running riot. Thorpe on the bases is the same hazzard to a pitcher and catcher that Ty Cobb is. He keeps everybody on his toes, and no one can work at his best when hurried all the time. Any pitcher who will allow Thorpe a three step lead is gone.

MAINTAINED FAST PACE. CHARLES DURBOROW, the long distance swimmer, in his voyage across Chesapeake bay maintained a steady stroke of 26 to the minute. As he was 8 hours and 42 minutes in the water he used 13,572 strokes. At the finish of the long swim bloodshot eyes were the only evidence of any physical condition different from the ordinary except that he must have been pretty wet.

and the Washington Olympics 16 to 5. The Rockford club also made a trip east in 1870 and again defeated the Nationals, 10 to 4.

When the National Association of Professional Leagues was organized in 1871 the Washington Olympics were admitted. The following year the Nationals also entered the professional fold, and the capital had two big league clubs. This condition prevailed in 1873, but in 1875 Washington was without professional baseball. When the National league was launched in 1876 Washington was passed up, and the city did not have league representation again until 1879, when it was given a franchise in the National association. The Nationals finished last in the league. In 1881 Washington was given a club in the new Eastern association.

The capital got back on the big league map in 1884, when the city had clubs in both the old American association and the short lived "outlaw" Union association. In 1886 Robert C. Hewett was given a Washington franchise in the National league, and for some time the capital had two big league clubs. Washington remained in the old American association until its dissolution in 1891, but never copped a pennant. The city was dropped from the National league at the close of 1892, having finished last three times and seventh once. In 1892, with the passing of the American association, Washington was again admitted to the twelve club National league and remained until the close of 1899, having spent all but one year in or near the cellar. And, with a dozen clubs, it was a deep cellar in those days.

After its dubious showing in other leagues, Washington hoped to do better in the American league, but the Senators finished sixth in 1901, their first year in the Johnson circuit, and didn't do any better than that, and mostly worse, until Clark Griffith took charge in 1912. That year the Washingtons finished second, and they repeated the following year. The time worn gag, "First in war, first in peace, but last in the American league," no longer holds true of Washington.

Photo by American Press Association.

PITCHER SHAW OF WASHINGTON.

FOHL ONCE A BIG LEAGUE PLAYER. LEE FOHL has been tagged often as a chap who came from the slow set and never saw the big leagues until he was appointed as boss of the Indians, but he did see a little service in the big leagues—that is, if catching for Cincinnati in 1903 is called big league service.

BRAVES ARE AN EXPENSIVE LOT. THE Boston National league club does not exploit the fact in the papers, but it is true, nevertheless, that the Braves' payroll is probably the largest of any club in either major league.

form all the feats for which an ordinary player uses an assortment of clubs. His method of using his clubs is as follows: He drives off the tee with his midiron, replaces it carefully in his bag and winds his devious way toward the green by land and water, over hill and dale, generally in the rough and always in a trap, digging vigorously with his midiron until the ball has been pitched at last upon the green, where he can use his putter and hole out in a half dozen strokes or more. When he had half completed his round of the Washington links the Detroit leader gave some good advice on how to play golf to those who followed him.

There are many other men of baseball fame who use more clubs and take less strokes than Jennings. Tillie Shafer, handicapped at five in the Southern California Golf association, is the best golfer from baseball ranks, but Christy Mathewson, Chief Bender and Fred Merkle are not in the duffer class. Ty Cobb, John Henry, Heinie Zimmerman, Jack Knight and Otis Crandall are other diamond stars who have taken up the game of the links.

"Ship Billiards" Landlubbers' Game

NEW YORK billiard academies are exploiting a new game in which a great deal of interest is being shown. Its original title is "Billar de Discos Meluzzi," but as that sounded too much like a table d'hote its devotees simply call it "ship billiards."

It is intended principally for play on passenger vessels, but is available for shore play, being a species of shuffleboard without the sand. The game and the table were invented by a South American. The rules follow:

Play With Eight Disks. First.—The game is played with eight large disks and a small one, the functions of the latter being those of the "jack" in bowls. Second.—A match may be played either in the form of "singles" or "doubles," each side using four disks marked with different colors in order to distinguish them.

Third.—The right to start the opening game of a match may be decided by tossing or in any other manner that may be agreed upon. In the subsequent games the side which has won the previous game is entitled to begin.

Fourth.—The "pockets" at the extremities of the table are for receiving the disks that may fall therein, in which case they are considered out of play during that game.

Fifth.—The disks must not be thrown, but made to slide by a natural movement of the hand, which is the manner most conducive to effective play. Shots may also be made by utilizing the cushions.

Sixth.—In the act of playing no part of the body may project beyond the width of the table.

Can Have Three Trials. Seventh.—If a player in starting a game is not satisfied with the position of the "jack" two more attempts are allowed, but if at the third "jack"

SHOOTING IS POPULAR; SHOWS RAPID GROWTH.

THE National Rifle association is becoming a modern bearstalk. At the end of 1913 there were about 200 civilian rifle clubs affiliated with the association. At the end of 1914 the number had increased to 300. Things picked up a bit during 1915, and by the end of the year the roster of affiliated clubs stood at 638. Then the N. R. A. figuratively too koft its coat and rolled up its sleeves and went to it. By May 31 of this year the affiliated civilian rifle clubs numbered 1,082, with new clubs rolling in almost hourly.

The most wonderful part of this growth is that it has taken place with a relatively small amount of publicity to help it along. The reason shooting gets so little notice in most newspapers is that the subject is not a familiar one and is not particularly spectacular or sensational, and ordinarily does not contain much of news value.

EVERS GETS \$10,000. This last spring Mr. Stallings signed a five year contract with the present owners at \$18,000 per year. Johnny Evers, the crabby captain of the team, as everybody knows, is pulling down \$10,000 in addition to all sorts of bonuses, while First Baseman Knetsch, ranking next to Evers in salary among the players, is good for \$9,000. The entire payroll for the season is probably very close to \$150,000.

BIG GRIDIRON TEAMS ARE MONEY MAKERS.

THE net profits of the Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Pennsylvania eleven last season is about a trifle over \$240,000, while the nine showed a profit of something over \$30,000. The fact that the football teams, playing less than a third as many games as the baseball nines, were able to pile up about eight times the profits of the diamond combinations shows that the gridiron game still holds first place as a money maker in college sports.

ED KING SON OF VETERAN. EDDIE KING of Amherst college, who has joined the Philadelphia Athletics, is a son of the former star outfielder who played with Pop Anson many years ago. Connie Mack of the ex-champion Athletics will conduct a school of instruction, assisted by Harry Davis and Ira Thomas, in his Philadelphia baseball ground. His squad includes many prominent college players from whom Mack expects to develop a winning combination.

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should enter a pocket the start shall be conceded to the opponent, together with two points. Eighth.—If in approaching the "jack" a player should cause the same, either directly or indirectly, to fall into any of the pockets the penalty is as in rule 7. Ninth.—The "balk" or starting line serves to mark the limit to which a player may extend the hand in sliding a disk. The player who does not respect this rule is subject to the same penalty as in rules 7 and 8. Tenth.—The winning disks are those which are nearest the "jack," and one point is scored for each except in the case of a side having four winning disks, in which case the points are doubled, making the score 8. Eleventh.—The player or side having within the circle four winning disks (the "jack" also being within the circle) shall be declared the winners of the match.

Some of Concessions. Twelfth.—The player or side whose disk should fall in the center pocket shall concede two points. Thirteenth.—If a disk in striking the cushions at the extremity of the table should return to beyond the starting line it shall remain out of play for that game. The player causing this to happen shall concede two points and the start.

Fourteenth.—Should a player in approaching the "jack" obtain equal distance from it to that of his opponent's disk another disk must be played to try to win the point. But if all the disks have been played neither side shall score.

Fifteenth.—Half the disk must be over the line to be considered within the circle or beyond the starting line. Sixteenth.—All disks which have not fallen completely into the pocket shall be considered in play.

Dick Rudolph In Old Time Form



Photo by American Press Association.

MANAGER GEORGE STALLINGS of the Braves is pleased over the fact that Dick Rudolph has regained his old time pitching form.

Always a Dangerous Hitter

IN the seventeen years that Crawford has played under the big tent he has batted under .300 only six times. But for years he has been the game's greatest run getter with his long drives. He was nearly as dangerous a hitter as Cobb and got more distance on the ball. The passing of Crawford as a regular breaks up one of the greatest outfield combinations in baseball. But, for all of his greatness and value to his club, he was never a star of the first water, and only because of the presence of Ty Cobb on the same club. On any other club Crawford would have been the high light of his team and would probably have shared the lime-

light of baseball with Cobb instead of having to bask in the shadow of the great Georgian. "If Sam had taken my advice," said Jennings, "he would still be a regular. Two years ago I noticed that Sam was slowing up, and I wanted him to take up first base. We needed a man at that time, and later got Burns. Sam had played first for us at times. "You would not notice that Sam was slow around first base. For that matter, he is just as fast now as most first basemen. He can cover the ground and make the short jumps, but when it comes to getting over distance in the outfield the legs are no longer able to carry him."

Coombs Deserving of Some Credit



Photo by American Press Association.

Should Brooklyn win the pennant this season considerable credit must be given to Pitcher Jack Coombs. The veteran twirler has delivered a splendid brand of ball this year.

Passing Heavy Hitter Correct Thing

THERE has been some criticism from time to time of the practice of passing a heavy hitter purposely when he comes up with men on bases, and it has been suggested that a rule should be passed prohibiting such action on the part of the pitcher. There is, however, no justice in such criticism, for the play is a perfectly correct one. The object of a pitcher is to win his game by any fair and legitimate means. If he thinks he has a better chance to do so by passing Honus Wagner in a pinch and trying for a weaker hitter it would be very unfair to deny him the privilege. He takes a chance of the

next batter hitting the ball hard and scoring more runs on his hit than would have been the case of the preceding hitter had he not been passed. It is simply a question of policy and playing the percentage. You might just as well say that a pitcher had no right to pitch a curve ball to a batter who was known to be weak on curves. Wagner's only weakness is a base on balls, and the pitcher is justified in pitching to that weakness in a pinch. As for a rule to prevent the intentional passing of batters, it would simply make life a further burden for the umpire.

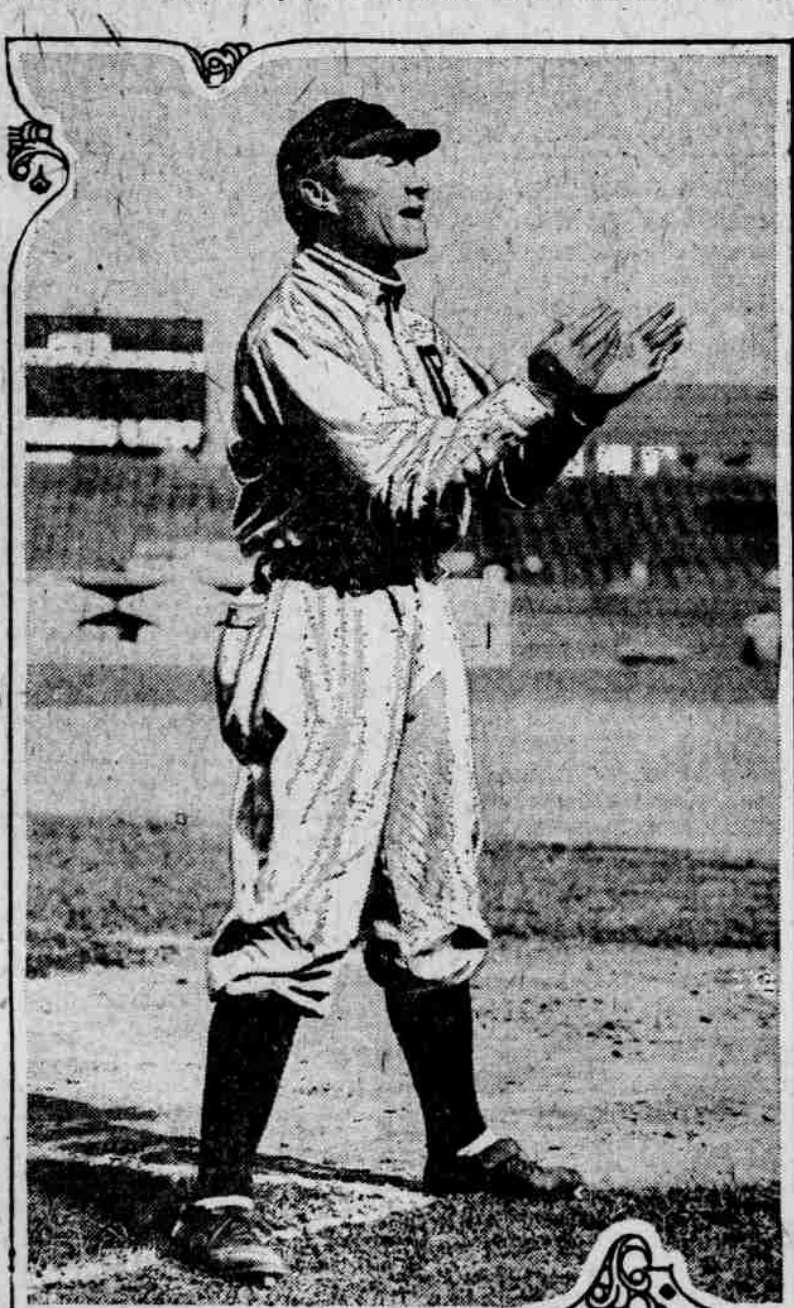


Photo by American Press Association.

HUGH JENNINGS AS HE APPEARS ON THE COACHING LINES.